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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re Application of: Donie, Frederic *et al.*  
Serial No: 09/423,863  
Filed: February 8, 2000  
For: PROCESS FOR THE DETECTION OF HIV  
ANTIBODIES AND ANTIGENS USED IN IT  
Art Unit: 1648  
Examiner: Brett Nelson

AMENDMENT AND REPLY UNDER 37 CFR §1.111

Honorable Commissioner of Patents  
and Trademarks  
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

This reply is in response to the Official Action dated October 30, 2000 which has a shortened statutory period for response of one month expiring on November 30, 2000. A petition for a 1-month extension of time until December 30, 2000 is enclosed herewith.

REMARKS

In view of the comments which follow, and pursuant to 37 CFR §1.111, reconsideration of the Official Action of October 30, 2000 is respectfully requested by Applicants.

The Examiner has made currently pending claims 15-33 subject to restriction and election requirements. The Examiner requires restriction under 35 USC §121 and §372 to one of the following groups of inventions: